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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Pinson resident with muscular dystrophy uses technology to gain independence**

PINSON— Diagnosed with muscular dystrophy when he was 2 years old, Jerry Farris has never walked and has limited movement in his arms, hands and fingers.

Thanks to assistive technology and the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services ( ADRS ), though, the Pinson man lives on his own and works from home at a high-tech computer workstation.

Farris controls almost everything in his apartment through voice command or switches positioned on his wheelchair.

He attributes much of his success to ADRS .

"There is no comparison to what life was before I came to ADRS ," Jerry said. "I never imagined that I could live on my own."

Through Vocational Rehabilitation Service, the ADRS division that helps people with disabilities to find and maintain employment, a high-tech computer workstation was designed, developed and purchased for him.

After the equipment was purchased, ADRS assisted him with landing a full-time job as the web and database administrator for Walnut Ridge Valuations in Gulf Shores.

Jerry transitioned from living with his parents last year to living on his own with the assistance of the State of Alabama Independent Living ( SAIL ) Service, another ADRS program that assists individuals with severe disabilities.

Through the SAIL -Medicaid Waiver program, he is able to pay his mother to provide personal care for him throughout the week. SAIL also addresses any of his independent living needs that are not work-related.

Jerry said his quality of life has improved immensely since learning about ADRS and the use of technology to perform daily tasks.

The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services is the state agency whose mission is to enable Alabama's children and adults with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential.